

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 27 July 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowlands (5,862,723) in view of Oriol (1,080,121).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Rowlands as an example disclosing the tool structure as claimed, except for the inclusion of a ball between the latch and the teeth of the driving head.

The Examiner further cites Oriol ('121) as an example teaching that it is known to provide a sliding latch mechanism having an appropriate engaging element for directly engaging the depressions between the teeth of the driving head in order to secure the angular orientation of the driving head relative to the handle, thus eliminating the need for a ball.

However, actually, in Rowlands, it will be difficult to form an inner hole in the handle (14) for receiving the ball (18). In addition, the pin (22) is indirectly engaged with the head (12) via the ball (18), such that the coupling strength between the handle (14) and the head (12) is relatively decreased.

In Oriol, the lugs 11, 12 are extended from the pin 13 for laterally engaging into the notches 10 of the lugs 8, 9. The tool 1 includes a recess 4 formed therein and adjoining the notch 3, for slidably receiving the pin 13. However, the lugs 11, 12 extended from the pin 13 are laterally engaged into the notches 10 of the lugs 8, 9 and may cause the pin 13 to be rotated by the handle 5 when the handle 5 is rotated relative to the tool 1.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claim 1, the latch (40) includes a first end having a disc (43) and an actuator (45), a second end having a button (42), the actuator (45) includes an outer diameter greater than that of the stem (41) to selectively engage into either of the depressions (37) of the shank (32) of the driving head (30), and the actuator (45) includes an inclined side portion (46) to allow the actuator (45) to be easily engaged into either of the depressions (37) of the shank (32) of the driving head (30), the disc (43) and the button (42) include an outer diameter equals to an inner diameter of the cavity (17) of the handle (10), to snugly receive the disc (43) and the button (42) in the cavity (17) of the handle (10).

It is to be noted that the disc (43) and the button (42) are snugly received in the cavity (17) of the handle (10), such that the disc (43) and the button (42) is allowed to slide along the cavity (17) of the handle (10), but may not be moved radially relative to the handle (10), and such that the actuator (45) may be solidly engaged into either of the depressions (37) of the shank (32) of the driving head (30), and will not be moved radially relative to the handle (10) by the shank (32) of the driving head (30).

The cited arts fail to teach a latch (40) including a disc (43) and a button (42) provided on ends of a stem (41) and having an outer diameter equals to an inner diameter of the cavity (17) of the handle (10), to snugly receive the disc (43) and the button (42) in the cavity (17) of the handle (10) and to prevent the disc (43) and the button (42) of the latch (40) from being moved radially relative to the handle (10), and simultaneously, an actuator (45) including an outer diameter greater than that of the stem (41) to selectively engaged into either of the depressions (37) of the shank (32) and including an inclined side portion (46) to allow the actuator (45) to be easily engaged into either of the depressions (37) of the shank (32). The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner THOMAS are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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